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Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" May I know what connexion there is between the fires and the allowing of the ryots to graze their cattle in the forests? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Because there was some suspicion in the mind of the department that the graziers set fire to the forest and after enquiry it was decided that these graziers should not be allowed to graze their cattle."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" Is it not a fact that last year there was a lot of loss to the Government on account of such fire on the Western Ghauts? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I am not aware of any such thing."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" I think the reserve forests extend to the very dwelling houses of these villagers and it would be very inconvenient for them if they are not allowed to graze their cattle in those forests? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I do not think so."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to call for a report? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" There is no reason for calling for a report; all these answers are based upon reports received from the officers connected with the Forest administration, and as a matter of fact a detailed enquiry has been made into the whole matter and as a result of that enquiry these answers have been framed."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" Is the report based on suspicion or upon facts? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"On facts."

Petition to the Collector of South Kanara regarding withdrawal of grazing rights.

* 241 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the petitions submitted to the Collector of South Kanara by the residents of villages adjoining the Bantaje and Medinadka blocks of reserved forests regarding the hardship caused to them by the withdrawal of grazing rights in the said blocks; and

(*b*) how many permits for grazing cattle in the said blocks were issued to ryots in each of the last three years?

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A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The information is furnished in the following statement:—

Statement.

Name of the reserve.	Year.		Number of animals licensed to graze.	
			Cows or bulls.	Buffaloes.
Bantaje reserved forest	1929–30	..	332	33
	1930–31	..	353	21
	1931–32	..	318	40
Medinadka east and west reserved forest.	1929–30	..	513	52
	1930–31	..	497	22
	1931–32	..	500	55

Panchayat Courts

Election of the members of the Depressed Classes Community to the Panchayat Court at Chidambaram.

* 242 *Q.*—Mr. M. DEVADASAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state how many members of the depressed classes were elected in the Panchayat Court of Chidambaram in South Arcot district?

A.—There are three elected members of the depressed classes in the panchayat court.

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—" May I know whether the Panchayat Court at Chidambaram is now working?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Yes."

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—" May I know how long it has been working?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Ever since the date of the election it has been working. I cannot say at the present moment when the date of the election was."

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—" May I know whether the Tahsildar of Chidambaram directed the court not to work?"

Ports

Representation of labour on the Port Trust.

* 243 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government are having under consideration the desirability of giving representation on the Port Trust Board to labour interests and to amend the Act so as to bring the Madras Port Trust into line with the Bombay Port Trust; if so, in what stage the proposals are?

A.—The matter is under the consideration of the Government.